

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

VOL. XXV

OCTOBER, 1932

No. 4

*THE

[Nº 2]

Rhode-Island Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4. 1732.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Edinburgh, July 8.



ESTERDAY died the Rev. Mr. John Grierson, one of the Ministers of the Gospel in this Place, after a long Indisposition. He was a pious good Man, an excellent Preacher, and once Moderator to the General Assembly of this Na-

tional Church, *Whitcomb, July 11.* This Day arrived an express from the Earl of Waldgrave, his Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of France, with Letters from Mr. Keen, his Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at Seville, dated July the 4th. N. S. giving an account, that on the 27th of last Month, Spanish Gallies were got into the Port of

Turks, and Provisions in proportion, to employ the Spaniards all the Month of July before they can make themselves completely Masters of Oran, *London, July 15.* There are Letters in Town which say the Spaniards were invited by the Moors into Bary, which is not unlikely, by reason they carried great Numbers of spare Arms with them. If it be so, the Moors propose to themselves and their Posterity more Peace, Quietness, and lasting Happiness than ever they enjoy'd under their Turkish Governors.

The following Promotions have lately been made in the Flags of his Majesty's Navy, viz.

Sir Charles Wager, Vice Admiral of the Red, made Admiral of the Blue.

Sir George Walton, Vice Admiral of the White, made Vice Admiral of the Red.

Salmon Morris, Esq, Vice Admiral of the Blue, made Vice-Admiral of the White.

Philip Cavendish, Esq, Rear-Admiral of the Red, made Vice-Admiral of the Blue.

John Belcham, Esq, Rear Admiral of the White, made Rear Admiral of the Red.

Charles Stuart, Rear Admiral of the Blue

THE RHODE ISLAND GAZETTE OF 1732

*From original in the library of the
Rhode Island Historical Society.
See page 97.*

Issued Quarterly

68 WATERMAN STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

CONTENTS

	PAGE
The Rhode Island Gazette, by Robert W. Kenny	COVER AND 97
Thomas W. Dorr's Escape, by Eleanor W. Talbot Smith	107
Genealogical Notes, by Edward H. West	109
Block Island Accounts, by G. Rothwell Burgess	110
Hoyle Gravestones	112
New Publications of Rhode Island Interest	113
Seals of the Rhode Island Admiralty Courts, by Frederick Bernays Wiener	114
Military Warrant of 1778, Communicated by A. H. Armington	115
Fort Flags	116
Westconnaug Purchase, Communicated by T. G. Foster	121

RHODE
HISTORICAL



ISLAND
SOCIETY

COLLECTIONS

VOL. XXV

OCTOBER, 1932

No. 4

WILLIAM DAVIS MILLER, *President* GILBERT A. HARRINGTON, *Treasurer*
HOWARD W. PRESTON, *Secretary* HOWARD M. CHAPIN, *Librarian*

The Society assumes no responsibility for the statements or the opinions of contributors.

The Rhode Island Gazette of 1732

By ROBERT W. KENNY

On Wednesday, September 27, 1732, the *Rhode Island Gazette*, the colony's first newspaper, appeared on the streets of Newport. It was probably a modest four page sheet which was "Printed and Sold by James Franklin, at his Printing House under the Town-School-House, where Advertisements and Letters to the Author are taken in." James Franklin, (1696-1735), the first man to bring a printing press to Rhode Island, had settled in Newport sometime in 1726. The *Gazette* was not his first journalistic venture, for he had had a brief, but acrimonious experience as a printer and editor in Massachusetts. Returning to Boston, in March 1717, from his apprenticeship in London, James Franklin had been commissioned by the postmaster, William Brooker, to print the *Boston Gazette*.

After forty numbers had been printed, Philip Musgrave was made postmaster, and to Franklin's dismay he awarded the printing contract to Samuel Kneeland. Taking advantage of the excited condition of Massachusetts over the "inoculation war" Franklin then started the *New England Courant*, August 6, 1721. The merits of inoculation as a preventative of small-pox had divided the colony into two hostile factions, the ministers supporting the practice and the "liberals" opposing it as "unscientific." Under Franklin's editorship the *Courant* became the chief "liberal" organ, and devoted much of its space to attacking the Mathers, Cotton, and Increase, who preached the virtues of inoculation both in and out of the pulpit. The attack must have been a telling one, for Cotton Mather declared the paper to be: "A wickedness never parallel'd anywhere upon the Face of the Earth!"¹

The *Courant* continued its pugnacious course, ever critical of those in authority. In June 1722, Franklin was jailed for charging the colonial officials with negligence in suppressing piracy. In January of the next year the court forbade him to publish his paper unless it was supervised by the Secretary of the Province. In spite of such devices as bringing the paper out in Benjamin's name, the *Courant* did not flourish, and disposing of it sometime in 1726 Franklin brought his printing press and his talent for argument into Rhode Island. In 1727, he began publishing such pamphlets as offered themselves, sermons and the *Rhode Island Almanac*; in 1731 he, as the official printer, put forth part of an edition of the laws of the colony. Although he has been credited with first publishing Bishop Berkeley's *Alciphron* or *The Minute Philosopher*, there is insufficient evidence for this. His known publications of all sorts are listed in Rhode Island Imprints, published in 1914.

¹*Diary of Cotton Mather*, Collection of Mass. Hist. Soc. 7 ser. VIII, 1912, 366.



JAMES FRANKLIN'S PRINTING PRESS

Now in Mechanics Building, Boston, Mass.

The Rhode Island Historical Society has photostatic copies of all numbers of the *Rhode Island Gazette* extant: fifteen in number. Five others are known to have been printed. The first issue, lost unfortunately, must have contained James Franklin's statement of principles, for in Number Five, October 25, 1732, Wm. K—g— writes praising the editor's stand.

"If you suffer no Personal Scandal to have Place in your Paper nor make yourself a Party to any religious Disputes, there will be no Room for Exceptions against you, but what will ly equally against all your Bretheren in this Town, unless you should appear duller than any of them, which yet is no very easy Thing."

Readers are also warned not to complain if: "the Paper is not always full of important events, which Times of general Peace and Tranquility do not afford." Lack of seasonable news appeared to be one of the editor's difficulties. Numbers Two and Four of the *Gazette* contained four pages; it is not unreasonable to presume that Number One did also. The rest however are only two pages each. The frequently printed request of the editor for contributions, and the insertion of foreign news of doubtful interest to Rhode Islanders would seem to indicate that James perhaps regretted his stand for conservative journalism which deprived his sheet of the piquancy which characterized the columns of the *New England Courant*. Foreign news at times occupied more than half the paper; at other times none at all was included. This would seem to point to the non-arrival in Newport of ships with English newspapers. Much space was devoted to the political moves of the Papacy and the Catholic princes on the continent. A letter from a correspondent in Rome to his friend in London, obviously reprinted from an English newspaper, is typical of many. It recounts a project to put the Chevalier de Saint George, the old Pretender, on the throne of a great north African kingdom. The advantages enumerated for this plan are: Another Catholic monarch, a good in itself,

freedom from the attacks of the Barbary pirates, and finally augmentation of the Papal revenues. The tone of this dispatch shows great concern for Protestant supremacy, and several similar pieces would seem to indicate that James Franklin was taking full advantage of the anti-Catholic, anti-Stuart feeling in the colony.

Other foreign items would seem to have been selected on the modern journalistic principle of "human interest": the overturning of a wherry on the Thames with the drowning of a drunken man, a street brawl in Naples between the son of the duke d'Agapello and a German officer, the wondrous soldier of Metz, whose body when opened by a surgeon disclosed 1250 stones of cherries, plums, and apricots, and the death in London of the Flying Man from bruises he received in his attempt to fly from Greenwich steeple.

Of strictly local news the *Gazette* doubtless printed all it could, but there never were more than a half dozen items per issue, and several times none at all. By far the most spectacular event in Newport during the short life of the *Gazette* was the escape, in his wife's clothing, of a convicted murderer:

Yesterday Night, (October 10, 1732) his wife and child going to visit him, after staying about half an Hour, she came to the outward Door of the Prison, and desir'd the Prison-Keeper to lend her a Mugg to fetch some Milk for her Husband; adding, "'Tis no Matter, now I think on't, there's one in the Room with him." Presently after (the Prisoner) having put on his Wife's Cloak and Bonnet, knock'd at the Door; and the Prison-Keeper letting him into the Priviledg'd Room, he walk'd through it in the View of him and several others, who mistook him for his Wife. The Prison Keeper going immediately to lock the Inner Doors, found his Prisoner was gone, and his Wife and Child left in the Room where he was confin'd.

Although the militia was called out and all citizens were ordered by Governor William Wanton to "make Hue and

Cry" the condemned man was not recaptured, at least in so far as the *Gazette* took notice of the affair.

On October 25, the *Gazette*, laconically reported: "We hear that the Rev. George Barkley, Dean of London-Derry, has given his Farm on this Island, worth about £3000, to Yale College in Connecticut." At this time the future bishop was preparing to return to England after his residence of nearly three years in the colony, a residence which was extremely fruitful as far as Newport and Yale College were concerned. It seems a bit surprising that so generous a benefactor should depart from the colony with such scant journalistic notice. These two entries are the high spots of interest among the inevitable death and weather notices. New England people even then were showing that preoccupation with the weather which prompted Mark Twain's jest. In 1732-33, apparently there was considerable justification; for towns up and down the coast reported extremely low temperatures. In Boston the harbor froze so solidly that ox teams were driven over the ice to Charlestown, and people walked down the harbor to Castle Island, at what is now City Point. Philadelphia items reported shipping at a standstill because of the frozen Delaware River. An epidemic of colds which struck the town in the late fall forced the suspension of services at The Church of England and North Congregational Meeting House, both pastors being "very much indisposed." So too was the editor of the *Gazette* who, as Tim Truman, apologizes to his readers for the dullness and flatness of his paper, blaming part of it on the weather.

I have been grievously seized with the late extraordinary Cold, which so took away the Gloss of my Stile, as well as obstructed my Thoughts, that I believe my Readers by this Piece perceive my Disorder, and that I am not altogether come to yet.

The gloss of style was mostly to be seen in essays reminiscent of the *Spectator* and *Tatler* with which Franklin, as Tim Truman, filled the columns of the *Gazette* when little

real news was available. One Cleverkin, William Freeborn of Narragansett, Tom Trueman, N. N. and Wm. K—g—are the principal contributors. Doubtless some of these essays represent genuine reader opinion; it is certainly true, however, that Franklin himself wrote some of them. Wm. K—g— writes so completely and sympathetically of the difficulties of conducting a paper in a small town that one feels justified in ascribing the authorship of his letter to the editor. The narrow circle of readers in the colony, he writes, the paucity of social diversions, and the lack of leisure which prevents readers from interesting themselves in the genteel arts and sciences make the editor's task a difficult one. Literary-minded readers will be prone to compare the *Gazette* with *The Spectator*; the problems of journalism in Rhode Island and London are compared, and Wm. K—g— closes by suggesting that subjects of a political and economic flavor might be better suited to the habits and interests of Newport readers. Several issues later William Freeborn contributes a lengthy panegyric on the excellencies of Rhode Island government:

When I reflect on our happy Condition in this Colony, and the most invaluable Priviledges we enjoy at the easiest and cheapest Rate imaginable, I cannot sufficiently admire the Wisdom and Felicity of our Constitution, nor enough applaud the Discretion and Frugality with which our Affairs have all along been managed.

Rotation of office, absence of slavery and oppression, and the utmost freedom of conscience move William Freeborn to the poetic close:

“Hail, happy native Land! But I forbear
What other Countries must with Envy hear.”

The strictly literary articles in the *Gazette* are highly imitative of current English style. The graceful essayist, Cleverkin, warns against reproving faults in public, and in the manner of Addison brings classical literature to his aid by citing copiously from Seneca and Plutarch. Tom True-

man's ironic defense of Tattling is genteel in the extreme. Tattling is a boon to those he refers to as the fair sex.

Their Work is a Burden to them at Home, but taking it abroad with them, hearing one Story and telling fifty, gives Activity and Dexterity to their Fingers, and adds an exquisite sharpness to their Needles.

The *Gazette* for January 25, 1732, prints a domestic fable from the *Pennsylvania Gazette* signed by Anthony Afterwrit. The author, as a bachelor, was very contented. His present wife was to have a dowry of £200 if her choice of a husband pleased her father. Anthony did not receive the £200, but was happy, nevertheless, until Mistress Afterwrit got a strong inclination to play the gentlewoman. His modest furnishings were discarded, one by one, in favor of much more elegant articles. Anthony feared for his credit among the townspeople; he could not afford such elegance. The good wife going on a visit to some relatives, Anthony sells the new carriage, the mirror, the china, and discharges the maid. Thus his credit is restored, and this letter in the *Gazette* warns his wife to expect, upon her return, to live upon a far more modest scale. The tone of Anthony Afterwrit's preachment is so typical of Poor Richard and his penny-pinching philosophy that it is not surprising to find that Benjamin Franklin was the author. Smythe, in his edition of Benjamin Franklin's works (Vol. XI, p. 182), definitely identifies Afterwrit as Franklin. The brothers had settled their grievances by 1731 and were freely reprinting items from each other's papers. Such borrowing was very common: indeed it appeared to be necessary many times in order to have sufficient material for an issue.

The colony had also two avowed poets. One Will Rusty in octosyllabic couplets, characterized by stamping metre, vented his broad humor in a poem entitled *The Scatterwaters*. The other bard, a gentleman of much more sensibility, preferred to remain anonymous. His theme was love's ravages, and his vehicle was the heroic couplet.

My anxious Hours roll heavily away,
Depriv'd of Sleep by Night, of Rest by Day:
My Soul no Respite from her Sufferings knows,
And sees no End of her eternal Woes.

His mistress is conventionally charged with cruelty and indifference, in contrast to his sentiment to her,

You know my Passion is sincere and true,
I love you to Excess, you know I do.

Despite this touch of anti-climax Newport's love-struck poet swears eternal loyalty to his love as he closes the lament.

I'll not resign you 'till my latest Breath,
I'll trace all Danger, run on any Death.

The advertisements and notices of any colonial newspaper have great interest today; those of the *Gazette* are no exceptions. Lotteries appeared to be the commonest means of disposing of real estate, and fourteen such notices appeared in the fifteen numbers of the *Gazette* which have come down to us. The escape of run-away slaves was announced and rewards offered. It was on December 14, 1732, that James Franklin published the *Rhode Island Almanack* for the year 1733, fitted to the meridian of Newport. Notices of its publication had appeared regularly for some weeks preceding its appearance. As his more illustrious brother Benjamin published Poor Richard's Almanac, so authorship of the Rhode Island one was ascribed to Poor Robin. Custom house notices of the arrival and departure of ships give evidence of Newport's thriving maritime trade. The average number of ships clearing the port was seven per week during the life of the *Gazette*. Names prominent in Rhode Island shipping history are thus recorded in the paper: Tillinghast, Brown, Coggeshall, Anthony, Howland, Coffin, Brenton, Rodman and others.

An advertisement which was indicative of the editor's difficulties appeared on January 11, 1733.

No. 13 of this Paper concludes a Quarter. Those who have taken it from the Beginning are desir'd to pay their Money to John Franklin of Boston, or James Franklin of Newport; the Continuance of it depending on punctual Quarterly Payments, or a greater Number of Subscribers.

The paper was in financial straits. Perhaps the venture was too ambitious. At that time all of Newport County numbered but few more than six thousand people. Scarcity of paid advertising, then as now, spelled the doom of many a newspaper. Boston, a far larger community, was supporting two papers at the time with no little difficulty, and the printers there had a considerable amount of political printing to augment their scanty journalistic revenue. The paper was probably well read, but Yankee thrift operated to circulate one copy through many hands; this does not make for prosperous editors. The last number preserved today, Number 20, is dated March 1, 1733, but we know that the *Gazette's* final issue was on May 24th of the same year. James Franklin died in February of 1735, and his wife, an able and ambitious woman, attempted to revive the paper but with no success. Not for more than a quarter of a century was Rhode Island to have a permanent newspaper, and it owed its existence to James Franklin, Jr., son of our pioneer journalist, who in 1758 founded the *Newport Mercury*. The printing press which James Franklin brought with him from England when he set up as a printer in Boston and later brought with him to Newport was preserved for many years in the office of the *Mercury*. In 1790, an attempt was made to sell it for one hundred dollars. The sale was not completed, for no one could verify it as the one on which the illustrious Benjamin had worked while serving his unwilling apprenticeship to his brother James. The press is now on exhibition in Mechanics Hall, Boston.

The *Maryland Gazette* has been selected for comparison with Franklin's paper because both served communities of approximately equal population, Annapolis being nearly

the size of Newport; and like it, a shipping center of importance. The following similarities are noted: Both print much foreign news in default of local items. Both print colonial proclamations in full, both feature letters from readers to the editor, generally on pseudo-literary topics imitative of Addison's *Spectator* papers. The poetry in both is indifferent stuff, generally in heroic couplets. The advertisements in both papers feature runaway slaves, almanacs, and lotteries. For crispness of style the Rhode Island paper is not inferior to the southern one. The failure of the *Gazette* was regrettable, but in all fairness we may conclude that the times and not James Franklin were out of joint.

References

The originals of the *Rhode Island Gazette* are located as follows:
Rhode Island Historical Society: No. 2.

Massachusetts Historical Society: Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13.

Mr. Edward A. Sherman: Nos. 15, 17, 19, 20.

There is a photostat file in the Rhode Island Historical Society Library.

Extracts of local interest from the *Rhode Island Gazette* were printed in the *Rhode Island Historical Society Collections* for October, 1923; and April, 1932.

Thomas, I.: History of Printing in America.

Kane, Hope: James Franklin, Senior, Printer of Boston and Newport.

Arnold, S. G.: History of Rhode Island.

Bayles, R. M.: History of Newport County.

Hammett, C. E.: Bibliography of Newport.

Thomas W. Dorr's Escape

The manner in which Thomas Dorr was safely taken out of the State, when liable to arrest for causing the Dorr War:

Samuel Slater Greene was the namesake of Samuel Slater who established the first cotton mill, in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and was brought up in his family.

For the greater part of his life he was agent for the cotton mills in Bernon and Warden of St. James Episcopal Church there, of which my father, Rev. Baylies P. Talbot, was for twenty years the rector.

Mr. Greene was a gifted mathematician, a somewhat stern but just man, whom everyone respected.

When the Dorr War occurred troops were stationed along the Blackstone Valley seeking to capture Thomas Dorr. Some of them were quartered in St. James Church.

Thomas Dorr managed to reach Bernon without being discovered and Crawford Allen of Providence and Mr. Greene concealed him in the back of the latter's carryall, took the front seat themselves and proceeded to drive leisurely through the village.

A sentinel soon caused them to halt and said to Mr. Greene, "Have you seen anything of Mr. Dorr?"

"Yes," answered Mr. Greene pointing with his thumb over his shoulder, "Back there a little ways."

The unsuspecting sentinel thanked him, and the carryall, drawn by one of the huge bay horses such as Mr. Greene always drove, passed on and over the State line without further challenge.

Years after, Mr. Greene told my mother of this occurrence which I have never seen mentioned in any account of the Dorr War.

June 22nd, 1932.

Eleanor W. Talbot Smith,
(Mrs. Arba Dike Smith),
Chatham, New Jersey.

Genealogical Notes

By EDWARD H. WEST.

TALMAN

The following extract from the Portsmouth, R. I. Land Evidence shows that Peter Talman had one less daughter than the lists of his children generally have.

Received of Ann Potter, wife of William Potter, four and twenty shillings, which is for Twelve acres of land at Least or more according to quallity, which was granted unto her son Preserved Brayton, he being heir to his father, Stephen Brayton, dec. belonging unto his freehold, by the Town of Portsmouth at a meeting of the free inhabitants, the 23 of the 12th month 1693-4. I say Received by me the 21st of the Second month called April 1694.

John Anthony Town Treasurer. (R. I. L. E. I-542.)

This shows that Ann Talman who married Stephen Brayton in 1679, married, as her second husband, William Potter.

WILCOX

The following proves that Edward Wilcox was the father of Daniel Wilcox.

Daniel Wilcox to John Briggs—all my Right, title, claims or interest unto any parcel of land granted within the limits of the town of Portsmouth, which was my fathers Edward Wilcox. 13th, 2nd mo. 1660. (R. I. Land Evidence, I-16.)

“R. D. D. His book And pen”

Communicated by G. ROTHWELL BURGESS.

In roaming around Block Island a number of years ago I chanced to find in a long abandoned shed an old account book inscribed as above, but with the full name. It was dated “Newshorham” July the 27th, 1837. His entries give us an idea of prices and goods of nearly 100 years ago. This man kept a store in the rear part of his ancestral home and farmed.

On one day he sold a silk handkerchief for 75 cts; one pare of glass lamps, 36; and loaned “3 shillings cash, 50 cts.” On another he sold a hat for three shillings 50 cts; and 2 bushels of potatoes 6 shil, 1.00.

For “3 days tugging and harvesting” he paid \$1.25. (And tugging was rightly named—it was digging out peat for fires). Caleb harvested two days and was paid 50 cents, while John Ball worked a day “diging stone” for 30 cents. A day’s work “walling” was worth 40 cts to another individual, while his pound and a half powder cost him 37 cents.

A farmer is credited with 10 bushels of corn, \$7.60 one year old steare at \$8.00; and 6 pounds of wool at 25 cents a pound.

An ounce of lobelia cost 25 cents and of “hot drops” 12½ cents. For keeping one sheep over an indefinite period he received 25 cents. He also did some carding and charged 25 cents.

He sold Celleb Westcott 62 pounds of hay for 46½ cents. A pair of shoes cost Caleb 1.75; 2 cotton shirts 1.00 and a “Jack nife” 37 cents. He also bought half a bushel of meal, 68 cts; a bushel of potatoes, 40 cts and borrowed 1/6 pence at a cost of 25 cents. A flanel shirt cost him 25 cents, and to wear over it a west cut for a dollar. Two hundred “punkins” cost him \$3.00, and another pair of boots (per haps to wear Sundays) \$2.50; A Box coat, 1.00; a pair of

trousers, 1.50; a silk handkerchief 75 cts; and one cap 3 shillings 50 cents. Sattennet cloth and a hat \$4.00 seems to have outfitted Caleb to the Queen's taste, or possibly that of some other female.

Caleb's brother William bought a "goos waing" 6½ pounds at 5 cts pll 33 cts.

A pound of butter sold for 20 cents and 50 rails cost 4.50.

In 1848 walling is worth 50 cents a day; a bushel of corn, 6 shillings 1.00 and a pig \$2.00. A day of mowing is worth \$4.00 while two days thrashing is worth only \$1.00.

In 1842 half a rod of tug sells for \$2.50.

In 1849 he either bought or sold a gallon of oil and a gallon of gin and neglected to enter the cost.

In 1847 milk sold at 4 cents a quart.

In 1849 he charged his cousin \$3.00 for use of "my oxon plowing four days." In the same year we find he sold a little boat for \$5.00. Three days thrashing and drilling twenty eight inches is worth 78 cents to him, and a quintle of fish 1.50. Cheese was cheap at 38 cents for 6 pounds, but 3 pounds of sugar cost 25 cents, and 50 cents bought a gallon of gin.

"On Satterday October the 5th D 1844. I shiped on board the Sloop Essex of Faal River from fall river Bound to New York Capt Ben Smith Comander." "thursday October the 21 1844 I tuck my discharge and fridy November the 22 1844 I shipped on Board the Schonah Yantic Capt. Staples Comander."

In 1851 a hoe cost 92 cents, same as "one Sith"; (scythe); a "pare of suspenders" 14 cts; 3 quarts of mollases and rake were charged at 44 cents. A gallon of mollases and a pound of coffee 38 cents; half a pound of soda and one head "to Backer" for 16 cents, while ½ "to Backer" was charged at .14 cents.

"September the 8th AD 1869 was the Day of great calamity with a gale. Southeast."

"Boddy exercise profith a little but goodliness is proffitable unto all men."

Hoyle Gravestones

The Hoyle gravestones, now in the museum of the Rhode Island Historical Society, were presented some years ago by Mrs. George W. Carr and her sister, the late Mrs. Benjamin D. Weeden, descendants of Dr. Hoyle. The inscriptions on the stones are as follows:

In Memory of
 Doct^r John Hoyle Gentelman o
 April the 4th 1685 in town of Bury of Lancasle
 in Oldengland Dec^d. 17
 In Memory of M^{rs} Deborah Wife
 Doct^r John hoyle born in Boston M
 y^e 4th 1695 Dec^d. December y^e 29
 In Memory of M^{rs} Lvsm oin
 Doct^r John hoyle born Melton
 October y^e 17th 1727 Aged 42 y
 In Memory of M^{rs} Mary Wi
 Doct^r John Hoyle born in Mo
 August the 30th 1684 Dec^d
 y^e 11th 1742
 F Hoyle hope &
 Wies lived &
 Jesus

John Hoyle
 In Memory of Captⁿ.
 Richard Hoyle Esq^r Son
 of Capt. John Hoyle & De
 borah his Wife born y^e
 11th of March 1719, & Died
 November 3^d, 1752. We
 John Hoyle & M^{rs} Mary
 his Widow Believe he Liv
 ed & Died in y^e Lord. We
 say with Job, y^e Lord gave
 & y^e Lord hath taken away
 to himself. Blessed be the
 Name of the Lord. Amen

The coat of arms on the Hoyle stones was illustrated and described in the *Rhode Island Historical Society Collections*, April 1928, p. 73.

New Publications of Rhode Island Interest

Roger Williams, New England Firebrand, by James Ernst is a volume of 538 pages, published in September by the Macmillan Company. Articles by Mr. Ernst on Roger Williams have appeared in recent issues of the *Rhode Island Historical Society Collections*.

Mayflower Index, compiled by William A. McAuslan of Providence, a work of 1250 pages, has been published in two volumes by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

An article on the Ray family of Block Island by G. A. Moriarty, F. S. A., appeared in the July 1932 issue of the *N. E. H. & G. Register*.

Old Time New England for April 1932, contained an illustrated article on the European railway carriages that were used on the Boston and Providence Railroad from 1868 to 1878.

Genealogical and Biographical Records of American Families, Hartford, 1932, contains articles on the Corliss and Sheffield families.

The *New England Quarterly* for July 1932 contains two articles of local interest; *Wars of the Greeks at Brown* by William T. Hastings and *Letters to Dr. Channing on Slavery and the Annexation of Texas, 1837* by Fulmer Mood and Granville Hicks.

Early American Textiles by Francis Little, The Century Co., New York, 1931, contains many references to Rhode Island and three illustrations from the museum of the Rhode Island Historical Society.

A Century of Scholars, Rhode Island Alpha of Phi Beta Kappa, 1830-1930, edited by William T. Hastings, is a volume of 227 pages.

Autograph Letters and Documents of George Washington, now in Rhode Island Collections, was published by State Bureau of Information, Howard W. Preston, Director, 171 pages, illustrated.

The Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Peace Dale Congregational Church, 1857-1932, by Caroline Hazard, was issued as a pamphlet of 42 pages.

Two interesting and scholarly notes of great importance to American genealogists seeking to trace "royal descents" appear in the October 1932 issue of *The American Genealogist* under the title of *Royal Ancestry and Kings of Ireland*.

New York History for October 1932 contains an article on *Elkanah Watson, A Man of Affairs*.

* * *

S. E. M. in the *New England Quarterly* for April, commenting on historical society activities wrote: "This last criticism does not apply to the Rhode Island Historical Society. They publish relatively little: but the quality of their articles and the value of their documents may challenge comparison with those of any historical publication in the United States."

Seals of Rhode Island Admiralty Courts

By FREDERICK BERNAYS WIENER

During the course of an examination of the vice-admiralty papers in the Rhode Island archives, enough impressions of seals were seen so that the complete inscription could be pieced together. It reads, "SIG:ADMIR:PROVIN:MASS:ET:NOV:HANT:IN:NOV:ANGL*"

Compare *Emblems of Rhode Island*, p. 69. This seal was current while the Rhode Island court was held by a Deputy Judge under the Judge in Boston. Whether a new seal was cut when John Andrews was appointed Judge Commissary for Rhode Island, in October, 1758, and the court became independent of the one in Massachusetts, cannot be known until and unless more papers from the later period are found. At present only a very few have reappeared.

The state court for the trial of maritime causes, established in March, 1776, and reconstituted as a court of admiralty with instance jurisdiction in July, 1780, seems to have had no seal as such. The one used, probably that of Judge John Foster, shows a lion rampant on a shield without any lettering or inscription. This seal was used in 1777 in the presence of John Foster (Bernon Papers) but it had previously been used in 1767 and 1772 on bonds to Beriah Brown (Beriah Brown Papers in R. I. Hist. Soc. library).

Military Warrant of 1778

From the original manuscript owned by Arthur H. Armington

Providence 27 July 1778

Sir

You are to proceed to the widow Ruttenburgh—
to purchase all the Boards & plank you Can & if
you Cant purchase Seize all that you may hear of within
Ten miles of this Town—

By Order of Genl Sullivan Silas Talbot Major

To Capt Elijah Bacon

NB the above warrant to Remain in force for three
days & no Longer

Fort Flags

The flags flown on British forts after 1661 were Union flags. The early pictures of New York made in 1664, 1679 and 1717 respectively, show the Union flag as the fort flag. It is not definitely known, however, what flag was used as the fort flag in America before 1661. Capt. John Smith shows the St. George flag flying at St. George's, Bermuda, in his *General History* written* in 1626 and printed in 1632, and on July 8, 1665, Capt. John Wentworth of Bermuda set up the St. George flag on the fort at New Tortola. This use of the St. George flag by a Bermudian in 1665 would seem to be due to the fact that changes occurred later in the colonies than in England and would seem to point to the probability that the St. George flag was often used as the fort flag especially in the colonies before 1661.

Apparently the red ensign was used as a fort flag as well as an infantry flag in Massachusetts Bay in 1634. In 1636 it was suggested that the King's arms be put into the flag to be flown at Castle Island, the fort in Boston Harbor. The idea seems to have been to put the royal arms in the canton of the red ensign in place of the cross which had been removed. It is possible, of course, that the St. George flag had been flown at Castle Island and that when the crosses were removed from the militia ensigns, the cross was also taken from this St. George flag, leaving a plain white flag on which the King's arms might be placed. This new flag was not made and for a while no flag was flown at the castle. After the trouble over the cross-less flag in May and June, 1636, the authorities had the King's Colors spread at Castle Island. *Colors* at this time meant ensign, and the application of the name King's Colors to the Union flag seems to have occurred during the reign of George II upon the reorganization of the army colors in 1743. On June 14, 1676,

*The plate is said to have been made in 1624.

during King Philip's War, the General Assembly of Rhode Island ordered the King's Colors to be set up at the garrison house in Providence.

Miss Grace Macdonald of the Rhode Island State Archives has discovered the following items in the State Archives in regard to the flags used at Fort George, Newport, R. I. These items, although referring particularly to Rhode Island, are doubtless typical of all of the thirteen original colonies. The prices are, of course, in the depreciated paper currency of the times.

H. M. C.

I

"Fort George, Dr. to John Brown, Feb. 16, 1736/7.
 To 39½ yds of find Scarlet buntin d/ £ 11:17
 To 190½ yds of blue & white buntin d 4/6 24:12.9
£ 36:9.9"

II

"Voted and resolved that the Account of John Brown amounting to Twenty nine Pounds seventeen Shillings & nine pence for a new Pendant and other necessaries supplied Fort George be allowed and paid out of the General Treasury." (R. I. Col. Rec. 1729-1745, p. 506.)

III

"Fort George, Dr.
 1739 Oct^r 12.
 To 58 Cordage at 20^d £ 4.16.8
 To Line 8/6 4 scanes Hous. at 2/ 16.6
 Nov^r 3^d To a Line - - - - - 2.
 To a Flagg 120^{yds} at 4/6 - - - - 27.
 To making Oznabrigg &c 2.18.
 To a Pendant 40^{yds}
 " making &c 10. 6.
£ 45.19.2

Newport Dec^r 1739 Except Errors
 Sam Vernon"

IV

“Colony of Rhode Island for Fort George
to Weeden & Bennett

1750		
July 4	To 79¼ yd of Bunting @ 14s	£ 55- 9-6
	To 47 yd ditto @ 12s	28- 4-0
	To thread & oznebrigs	1:10:0
	To Making a Flagg	10: 0:0
		£ 95: 3:6

Newport Sept. 6, 1750”

V

“Colony of Rhode Island to Weeden & Bennett, Dr.

1752	} To Bunting & making a pend-	£ 28.2
October 3		
	}	ant for Fort George - - -

1753	To Ditto & making a Flagg	87.13-
May 2	for Ditto - - - - -	- - -

£ 115.15-”

VI

“Colony of Rhode Island to Weeden & Bennett

1754

May 23	To bunting & making a pendant	
	for Fort George	£ 34: 6”

VII

It appears that the flags and pendants flown at Fort George did not last very long and often had to be renewed.

At a Council of War held at Newport in 1757 it was “farther voted & ordered that a White Flag with the Union described in the Canton at the Upper Corner thereof near the Staff be procured for the Ward House; And that when Three large Ships or Five Top-Sail vessels shall be per-

ceived from s^d House approaching the Harbour the said White Flag shall be hoisted as a Signal to the Fort." This item shows the use of the white ensign, (which at this time was sometimes called the St. George Flag*) as a signal flag in Rhode Island.

VIII

"Colony of Rhode Island to Job Bennett Jr. Dr.

1762	To Bunting & making a Pendant }	71-16"
Aug. 6	for Fort George Deld Capt. Read }	

IX

"Colony of Rhode Island to Job Bennett
1768 July 8 For a Pendant 17 yds long & 2 yds
wide for Fort George £ 5-8-10"

X

"Colony of Rhode Island to Job Bennett
1770 June 4 To Bunting and making an union
for the Pendant at Fort George
and mending the same 1-9-13¼
July 20 To 95½ yd Bunting @ 1/6 7-3-3
3½ ounces thread 35/
line 35/ Tow Cloth 75/ 0-5-0¾
making a Flag for Fort George 0-15-0

9-12-5½

17 Sept. 1770"

*Not to be confused with the flag having a red cross and white field which was called the St. George flag in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

XI

"1772 May 13 Colony of Rhode Island to Job
 Bennett Dr.
 To Bunting thread oznebrigs and
 making a pendant for Fort George
 2 yds wide & $17\frac{5}{8}$ yds long.
 Delivered the Gunner £ 3:18:7"

XII

"Colony of Rhode Island to Job Bennett for Fort
 George
 1772 Oct. 21 to $86\frac{1}{2}$ yd Bunting @ $1/6$ £ 6- 9-9
 to thread Ficklingburg a line
 and making a Union Flagg 19-9

 £ 7- 9-6
 1772 Oct. 30"

XIII

"Colony of Rhode Island to Job Bennett
 1774
 Oct. 20 to $44\frac{1}{2}$ yd of Bunting @ $1/6$ 3- 6-9
 to thread & Fublingburgh 1-6
 to makeing a pendant for Fort
 George 21 yd. long & 2 yds wide
 with a Union at the head 8-0

 £ 3-16-3
 May 2, 1775"

The Minutes of the Westconnaug Purchase¹

Transcribed by THEODORE G. FOSTER
Association for Purchasing Westquanaug

June the 8th 1678. WE whose Names are hereto subscribed being all and every of us jointly concerned in Purchases of Land called Westquanaug² bounding upon the West Line of Providence—one of which said Purchases was made and purchased by M^r. William Vaughn late deceased his Friends and Associates—other by Mr. Zachariah Rhoods and Mr. Robert Westcoat—The Deeds of Sale or Sales thereof bearing Date May the 8th 1662 and September 23^d. 1662 &c as appears by Articles of Agreement made

¹The Minutes of the Association for purchasing Westquanaug are copied from a 650-page letter book of Theodore Foster. The volume consists mostly of copies of letters written by him and received by him. However, interspersed throughout the whole volume are copies of Bible records, genealogical sketches of various families and notes on historical matters.

Mr. Foster's handwriting, at times hurried and indistinct, makes the task of transcribing sixteen pages (8 x 12) of closely written words and lines a real undertaking, and to make the task the greater, the volume has been misused and has at some time in the past been used for a plant press by some youthful botanist.

The volume was brought to Michigan in 1863 by his son, Theodore Raepth Foster, who resided in Lansing, Michigan. Incidentally all printed mention of Theodore R. Foster and Maxwell S. Foster in genealogies refer to them as Theodore Foster and Maxwell S. or Maxwell Steward Foster, whereas in the letter book are copies of letters written by Theodore to his own relatives stating how and why he named them Theodore Raepth and Maxwell Stewardelphomb.

THEODORE G. FOSTER

²Westquanaug, now usually spelled Westconnaug, was a tract of land comprising nearly the southern half of the present town of Foster and that part of the town of Scituate which lies south of the north branch of the Pawtuxet River. The north line of the Westconnaug Purchase is shown on a map of Foster drawn by Theodore Foster in 1799 and on file in the R. I. H. S. Manuscripts, Vol. VII, No. 1409.

and Signed by the Persons³ therein concernd Datd Septem^r. the 29th. 1662 DO by these Presents oblige and engage ourselves in the said Articles following /viz/ First it is ordered and jointly agreed on by in that John Fones shall be Clerk to the Company—Secondly it is orderd and jointly agreed on by the said Company that Mr. Caleb Carr Mr. Jeremiah Clark Mr. Hugh Mosher and John Fones are authorised and by these Presnts We do give unto them full Power and Authority to and in our Behalf for the maintaining justifying and defending our just Rights and Property in our aforesaid Purchases above premisd and call to an Account any Person or Persons that are concernd in the aforesaid Purchase of what Monies is due from them to the Company and also to deal with Samuel Reape about a Deed of Sale which he doth obstinately detain in his Hands belonging to the Company: and to all Matters relating to the Propagation and Vendication of our aforesaid Purchases &c—Thirdly It is ordered that the Deed of Sale baring Date May the 8th 1662 with a Writing of Articles & other Papers to the Number of Thirteen shall be left in the Hands & Custody of Mr. Caleb Carr until the Company sees Cause to demand them or otherwise to dispose of them—Fourthly It is agreed on jointly amongst us that Mr. Caleb Carr Senior shall have an equal Share in the Purchase above specified without any Reference to a Share belonging to his Wifes First Husband⁴

Fifthly It is agreed upon that William Foster is accepted of by the Company in the Room and by the consent of Capt Richard Morris

Sixthly Emanuel Case appearing in Behalf of those which are concerned in that Share of Land in the aforesaid Purchase which did belong to his Father doth Engage as the

³Moosup, otherwise known as Pessacus and Quissucquansh, was the Indian sachem who sold the land according to the Petition of 1711. (See note 13.)

⁴John Pinner. Sarah, the daughter of Jeremy Clarke, married first John Pinner and secondly Caleb Carr. (Austin p. 45.)

Rest of the Company doth and is accepted of by the Company

Seventhly It is orderd and jointly agreed on that John Fones is accepted of to have that Share of Land which did belong to Mr. Nathaniel Johnson which he bought of Mr. Abell

Eightly It is orderd and agreed on that Weston Clarke and John Crandal⁵ shall each of them have a Share of Land in the aforesaid Purchase.—

Andrew Langworthy for	Thomas Clark	John Cranston
Thomas Dring	William Foster	Caleb Carr
Weston Clarke	Hugh Mosher for	Clement Weaver
Hugh Mosher for his Son	Aaron Davis	Thomas
John Mosher	John Fones	Hugh Mosher
	Latham Clarke	Shubal Paynter
	James . .	Clement Weaver Jn ^r

Whereas WE Caleb Carr Jeremiah Clarke Hugh Mosher and John Fones being deputed and chosen by the Major Part of the Company concerned in purchasing Land called by the Name of Westquanauge to act and order all Matters relating to the Propagation of the aforesaid Purchases as appears by Articles under their Hands made the 8th of June 1678

WE being met together this 12th of June 1678 DO order and Declare as followeth—First it is orderd by the Major Part of us that Mr. Caleb Carr shall be the Treasurer to the Company

Secondly It is orderd that all persons that are concernd in the said Purchases and have not paid the full of the First Payment for their Part of said Purchase shall within Twenty Days after the Date hereof bring in his or their full Payment of what is due unto the Treasurer otherwise shall forfeit his whole Right in said Purchase to the Rest of the Company . . The First Payment is £ 4 . . 0 . . 0 in country Pay

⁵John Crandall sold part or all of his share to George Lawton on December 12, 1682. (R. I. Land Ev. III, 224)

Thirdly It is orderd that M^r. Caleb Carr and John Fones are authorised to go and treat with Samuel Reape about a Deed of Sale he hath in his Custody belonging to the Company

Fourthly It is orderd that there shall be Notice Given unto all Persons concernd in the aforesaid Purchases to appear before us to give a due and just Account of what Money they have paid or disbursed upon account of the said Purchases within Twenty Days after the the Date hereof

Fifthly It is ordered that the Company shall meet the 22^d. of This Instant at the House of M^r. Caleb Carr . . . The above written order made by Us June 12th. and Signd

p^r John Fones Clerk to the Company

Rec^d. by M^r. Caleb Carr Treasurer of Lawrence Springer upon the Account of his Share in the Purchase of Westquanaug 27 lb of Sheeps Wool . . .

Rec^d. of Philip Tabor Thirteen Shillings in Money upon the Account of his Share of Westquanaug

Rec^d. of Shuball Paynter for the Account of a Share of Land of Westquanaug the Sum of Three Pounds in Money and if he proves the Purchase already paid before that then he is to have his Money again——

At a Meeting of the Trustees with some others of the Company concerned in Purchase of Westquanaug Do order and Declare as followeth That whereas there was an order made the 12th. of this Instant That all persons concernd in the aforesaid Purchases should within Twenty Days bring his or their full Payment of what is due to the Company upon account of their Shares in the said Purchase and there being Several Persons that Do live Remote and as We Suppose have not had Twenty Notice to provide for the Performance thereof WE therefore see cause to defer the

Time before prefixed and give Liberty for bringing in the said Payments until the last Day of October next ensuing the Date hereof . . . Orderd as aforesaid this 22^d of June 1678

Signd per Order John Fones Clerk

At a Meeting of the Trustees before nominated the 19th of December 1679 It is orderd that all Persons concernd in the aforesaid Purchase shall have Timely Notice given to each of them to bring in a Just account unto the Treasurer of what Charge and Money they have expendd or paid for their Shares or part in the aforesaid Purchase and to make full Payment for their aforesaid Shares or Part with what hath been already paid as may appear by their Accounts at or before the First Day of March next ensuing the Date hereof that is to pay £ 4 . . 0 . . 0 in Current Pay

It is also ordered that any Person or Persons that are to have propriety in the aforesaid Purchase and have not paid any of the Sum above mentiond for their shares in the aforesaid Purchase /viz/ £ 4 . . 0 . . 0 current Pay shall take care to pay or cause to be paid unto the Treasurer before nominated the full Sum before mentiond at or before the First of March as aforesaid or otherwise upon Neglect thereof shall forfeit his or their whole Right and Propriety in the aforesaid Purchase

pr Order John Fones Clerk

These may Certify whom it may concern that We John Stanton and John Coggeshall of Rhode Island Do resign any Right or Title that we have had to a Purchase of Land calld Westquanaug to the Purchase of said Tract a Witness our Hand this 27th of Septembr 1682

John Coggeshall John Stanton

It is ordered that Weston Clark is received in as a Purchaser upon one of the Shares that is thrown up the 27th of September 1682

		The Company of Purchasers of the Land of Westquanauge Dr.	
		To John Fones	
April the 16 th	1683	To going to make the Agreement between Pawtuxet Men and said Company . . Five Day . .	£0 . . 6 . . 0
March the 16 th	1684/5	To going to Pawtuxet to meet the Rest of the Trustees to consider advise and determine about Settling the Land Five Days	0 . . 6 . . 0
April	16 1685	To going to Warwick to meet the Trustees Five Days	0 . . 6 . . 0
		To Expenses there 2 ^d 6 ^d	0 . . 2 . . 6
April	20 1685	To going to Squomakuck to treat with the Indian Queen ⁽⁶⁾ and her Husband and others about the Purchases Four days with my Expenses on that Journey	0 . 14 . . 6
		To 4 Yards of Duffil given per Order of the Trustees to the Indian Queen and her Husband 20/	1 . . 0 . . 0

Sup Contra Credit
 1683 April 17th. By Money rec^d of Weston Clark which was paid by the Treasurer M^r. Caleb Carr April 23^d. 1685.
 By 12^d. Money Rec^d. of Major Greene & M^r. John Whipple

At a Meeting of the Proprietors of Westquanauge⁽⁷⁾ convened at the House of M^r. Joseph Smith of Kinstown in the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation the 20th. of February 1706/7

1st Voted and ordered That Simon Smith shall be Clerk of the Company

⁶Weunquesh. See R. I. H. S. Coll. Oct. 1931, XXIV, 159.

⁷On May 6, 1702 The General Assembly of Rhode Island authorized the creation of Westconnaug as a township.

An Act in answer to the petition of sundry persons respecting the purchase of Wesquanauge.

Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That always provided the said purchase of Wesquanauge doth not entrench upon the township of Providence, Warwick, Greenwich, Kingstown and Westerly; and that it be a competency for the setting a township, that then they shall by virtue hereof, have full power or liberty to settle a township on their own rights aforesaid. (R. I. Col. Rec., printed, III, 446.)

2^d Voted and orderd That M^r. John Rhodes M^r. Malichi Rhodes M^r. Peleg Rhodes M^r. Benjamin Carpenter and Simon Smith are taken in Equal Partners—as also M^r. Nathaniel Waterman and M^r. Thomas Field to be equal Partners with the Rest of the Proprietors of Westquanaug

Voted and agreed upon That all the Partners both those that are now taken in and those that were in before shall be at equal charges to maintain and vindicate the Right of the Land of Westquanaug and to stand by and assest each other in the Premises and whosoever shall be remiss of the said Partnership or shall neglect to pay his Equal Part in paying and defraying the Charges that may accrue concerning the said Premises He shall forfeit his part in said Lands to the Rest of the Partners

3 That no one of the Company shall sell or otherwise convey his part or any Parcel thereof to any person that is not priviledged in the said Land until such Time as the said Tract of Land is divided and if any shall not withstanding this Agreement sell their Right to any not of the Company Then the said Party so doing shall forfeit all his Right and Privileges in the said Land to the Rest of the Company and lose all his Charges always provided that those that have conveyed before this Time shall not be included or *indemnified* any thing before written notwithstanding

4 It is agreed that there shall be one of the Company chosen to be Treasurer for the Company who is to expend and pay all reasonable Charges that shall arise concerning the Management of said affairs and that every Person who has a whole Right shall pay to the Treasurer hereafter named Twenty Shillings a piece and those that have less than a whole Right to pay according to their Proportions after the Same Rate as aforesaid to be paid to said Treasurer by the last of March next ensuing and We do hereby appoint M^r. John Rhoods to be to be the Treasurer to order said Affairs

5th It is agreed upon that there shall be Six of the Company chosen as Trustees to oversee and menage the said Concern in Behalf of the Rest of the Company who shall have Power or any four of them agreeing to meet and order Matters and if they think best for the interest of the Company to call the whole Company together upon any emergent occasion of which Trustees there are to be Three on the Island and Three on the Main and the Persons appointed are the Honourable Governor Samuel Cranston M^r. Weston Clark and M^r. Robert Gardner on the Island and M^r. John Rhodes M^r. Richard Greene and Simon Smith on the Main

6th That that the said Trustees shall meet on the last Day of March next in order to appoint a Surveyor or Surveyors to lay out said Land and that the said Trustees shall be paid by the said Treasurer for all their reasonable charges and Time whilst about said Affair and what Money shall be paid by his Partners shall be deposited and laid up by said Treasurer and expended out to defray all Charges as the said Trustees shall order and that the said Trustees or any four of them shall have full Power to examine and look into all Matters that have been transacted heretofor in said Concern and also to have as full Power to act and do all Manner of Things relating to said Affairs as if the whole Company had done the same

John Rhodes in his own Behalf and for Malichy Rhodes

Simon Smith

Samuel Cranston

Benjamin Carpenter

Weston Clark

Peleg Rhodes

Robert Gardner

Andrew Harris

Nicholas Carr

Israel Arnold

WE the above Subscribers Do also

Elisha Arnold } For one Right

Sign on Behalf of

Stephen Arnold }

Jeremiah Clark

John Fones

Hugh Mosher

William Fobes & } 1 Right

Clement Weaver Sen^r.

John Pebody

Clement Weaver Jun^r.

John Rogers

William Vaughn

Richard Greene

(To be continued)

ROGER WILLIAMS PRESS



E. A. JOHNSON CO.

PROVIDENCE